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2010
Youth Suicide Prevention
Poetry and PSA
Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, March 30, 2010
Pinnacle Pointe Hospital



2010 Poetry Judges

Stacey McAdoo

Educator, Little Rock School District

Stacey James McAdoo, author of the poetry book entitled, “Sweet Melanin Messages” and the memoir “Baring My Soul,” is an educator in the Little Rock School District. She holds a bachelor’s degree in professional and technical writing from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and a master’s degree in teaching from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Currently she teaches oral communications at Little Rock Central High School. In addition to teaching, she is the editor and publisher for Backyard Enterprises and does freelance writing and editing for various newspapers and organizations.

Dr. Lia Steele

Professor, Philander Smith College

Dr. Lia A. Steele is currently Chair of the Humanities Division at Philander Smith College. Steele was born in Bethesda, Maryland while her Arkansas born and bred parents lived in Washington, D.C. as part of her father’s naval service. She grew up in North Little Rock and received her bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, her M.A. in English from Marquette University, and her Ph.D. in modern British literature, 1780-1950, from St. Louis University. Her poem “retrograde: 9/11/01” was published in “Out of the Pit,” “Word,” and on the City of New York’s web site. She also read the poem on the six month anniversary of the World Trade Center collapse at a Greenwich Village café at the WTC Volunteer’s Fundraiser along with New York City firefighters, New York City police officers, and Port Authority police. Dr. Steele has been teaching for 28 years.

2010 Poetry Judges

Donna Monk

State Coordinator/ The Jason Foundation, Inc.

Donna Monk is the state coordinator for the Jason Foundation at Pinnacle Pointe Hospital in Little Rock.

She is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. She is a licensed social worker and has been employed at the Children and Adolescent Behavioral Health Services Center at Pinnacle Pointe Hospital since 1996.

Valerie Kodell

Retired Teacher

Valerie Kodell graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a specialty in early-childhood education. She retired from teaching after 15 years, 10 of them in the Little Rock School District.

Hazel McKoin

Retired Social Worker

Hazel McKoin, LCSW, is a retired social worker with 38 years of experience as a clinician and supervisor in a variety of settings, both public and private. She spent almost 20 years at the Family Service Agency. For six years, she was a volunteer at a private nonprofit mental-health advocacy agency, being named its Volunteer of the Year in 2001.

Suicide prevention has long been one of her primary interests, and she believes education and communication are keys to prevention. Mrs. McKoin lives with her two cats and husband in Little Rock.

A Message from:

DUSTIN MCDANIEL

Attorney General



Dear Students and Parents:

Thank you for attending today's ceremony honoring the winners of the 2010 Youth Suicide Prevention Poetry and PSA Contest. These talented young leaders deserve recognition and praise for putting their creativity and talent to work for this important cause, and I congratulate them on their accomplishments.

This year's contest theme, "Life – Explore the Possibilities" encourages students to examine their potential and to look at the positive aspects of life. Our sponsorship of the contest correlated with the observance of Youth Suicide Prevention Week during the week of March 28th, during which time, we have joined together with the Jason Foundation and with schools across the state to increase awareness about youth suicide. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for young people between the ages of 15-24. However, by working together and providing students with life-saving information and resources, I am confident that we can make a difference and stop this needless loss of young lives.

I hope that today's winners will keep up the good work, and I hope others will join them in their efforts. Every one of us has a role to play in ensuring that our children grow up happy, healthy and safe. They are the future of Arkansas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dustin McDaniel". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Dustin McDaniel

A Message from:

CLARK FLATT

President and Chief Executive Officer
The Jason Foundation



Dear Friend:

The Jason Foundation, Inc. (JFI) is a nationally recognized leader in youth-suicide prevention. JFI is proud to work with Attorney General Dustin McDaniel and his office in providing programs of awareness and prevention in the State of Arkansas. Working together, we address youth suicide with programs that provide the information, tools, and resources to help stop the tragedy of youth suicide.

Sincerely,

Clark Flatt

2010 PSA Judges

Captain Tanya Phillips

*State Suicide Prevention Manager
Army National Guard*

Currently serves as the State Suicide Prevention Program Manager and State Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for the Arkansas National Guard. CPT Phillips is also the Military Intelligence Company Commander for the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. She recently served in Iraq as the Intelligence Officer to the Mayor of Camp Taji, and also serves as an Ex-Officio Board Member for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – Arkansas Chapter.

Captain Phillips received her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Florida State University and her Master's of Education in Special Education with a focus in the Emotionally Disturbed from University of Arkansas at Little Rock

2010 PSA Judges

Donna Monk
State Coordinator
The Jason Foundation, Inc.

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Beth Davis
Business Development
Pinnacle Pointe Hospital

Beth Davis graduated from Ouachita Baptist University with BSE.

She then graduated from Henderson State University with MS in Community Counseling. She has been working in mental health field for 14 yrs and at Pinnacle Pointe Hospital in Business Development for the past 5 yrs.

March 30, 2010

**Youth Suicide Prevention Week
Poetry and PSA Awards Ceremony**



**Life~
Explore the Possibilities**

~ Order of Program ~

Opening Remarks

Introductions and Special Recognitions

Presentation of Awards

* * * * *

~ Lunch ~

Junior High Poetry Winners

LIVE TODAY

You are awesome in every way
So live and cherish every day.
Do not sweat over past regrets;
Man forgives and man forgets,
The future holds what we don't
know,
There is no telling how far you'll go,
You can travel far and travel wide,
Live with confidence; live with pride.
Never accept that your life is
through;
There'll never be another you.

Jake Edwards
Paragould Junior High School
7th Grade
1st Place

Winning PSA:



Nate Hail
Tyler McCauley
Taylor Maxwell
Cabot High School

Runner-up:



Karyn Doan
Allie Cook
Hailey Bruce
Cabot High School

Senior High Poetry Winners

Travel Down the Road

I travel down the road and see,
There are so many things I can be.
Life is full of so many possibilities,
Like the branches that come off of trees.
With these branches choose carefully,
For your choices will determine your destiny.

Aspen Jones
Danville High School
12th Grade
Honorable Mention

Junior High Poetry Winners

Life

Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.
Life is beauty, admire it.
Life is bliss, taste it.
Life is a dream, realize it.
Life is a challenge, meet it.
Life is a duty, complete it.
Life is a game, play it.
Life is costly, care for it.
Life is wealth, keep it.
Life is love, enjoy it.
Life is mystery, know it.
Life is a promise, fulfill it.
Life is sorrow, overcome it.
Life is a song, sing it.
Life is a struggle, accept it.
Life is tragedy, confront it.
Life is an adventure, dare it.
Life is luck, make it.
Life is too precious, do not destroy it.
Life is life, fight for it.

Eric Thorn
Beebe Junior High School
8th Grade
2nd Place

Junior High Poetry Winners

The Road of Life

Outside these doors...
Lies a road of life
It can be good or bad
Life is all about your choices

Outside these doors...
Lies a road of life;
Life can be long or short
Depending on the path you take

Outside these doors...
Lies your road of life
Full of speed bumps,
Greenlights, and red lights

Outside these doors...
Does not lie a "perfect" road;
Life is about your choices
Life is about exploration.

Hailey Oosterloo
Carl Stuart Middle School
8th Grade
3rd Place

Senior High Poetry Winners

Tomorrow

Tomorrow is a better day,
A blank slate in the making.
Full of promises, changes, and joy
Yours for the taking.

Today is tomorrow's past,
In which you can make all things forgotten.
All things terrible, hurtful, or rotten.

Tomorrow's memories can be the best.
Oh-so much better than the rest.

Don't soon forget and listen well,
As I give you insight on how
To make your tomorrow swell.

Tomorrow is what you want it to be.
With a positive attitude even you
Shall soon see.

Rose Dean
Searcy High School
12th Grade
Honorable Mention

Senior High Poetry Winners

Every corner you turn
Presents a new possibility
Every new possibility you explore
Offers a new experience
Every new experience you try
Brings a new passion
Every new passion you acquire
Yields a new purpose
Every new purpose you adopt
Provides a reason to live

Michael Wallace
Searcy High School
11th Grade
3rd Place

Junior High Poetry Winners

Life- Explore the Possibilities

*A permanent solution
For a temporary problem
There will be no ablution
All the faces will be solemn*

*Your mind it is not right
You are not doing them a favor
Taking your life tonight
Will haunt your family forever*

*Your future holds a beautiful life
If you push the thoughts away
No more of the worries, pain, or strife
If you save yourself today*

*Life is about exploring possibilities
You cannot do that from a grave
Let me help you through this rough time
please
I know you can be that brave*

Brianna Dixon
Bismarck High School
9th Grade
Honorable Mention

Senior High Poetry Winners

“Think”

*Think of what you can do.
Think of what you will say.
Think of the people who love you.
Think of the decisions you will make.
You're special to people here.
You're special in every way.
People need your smile,
To greet you every day.
You have purpose here,
There are things you need to do.
So think of how important you are,
When things all seem doomed.
Live each day to the fullest,
And never back down.
Live to see your future grow.
Think of who you will become now.*

**Rebecca Simmons
Searcy High School
12th Grade
1st Place**

Senior High Poetry Winners

What if I told you there's possibilities?

What if I told you
That life could hold you,
And caress you, and love you,
And fill you, and frame you?

What if I told you
That life missed your smile
And asked me if you
Would just stay for awhile?

What if I told you
That life gave you choice
To be who you wanted,
To lift up your voice?

What if I told you
That life saw your promise,
Your potential outstanding,
Would that offer solace?

If I told you the possibilities
That life offers you and me
Wouldn't you stay
And live for each day?

**Sarah Mathews
Lonoke High School
12th Grade
2nd Place**